Norton

Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR

1902.

RALPH H. F. BOSTOCK.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1902.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Norton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1902.

During the year 68 deaths were registered—35 males and 33 females—being an increase of 11 deaths over last year, and estimating the population at 3,900 gives the death-rate of 17·4, as compared with 14·8 in 1901.

The death-rates for the five preceding years were—

1896	15·5
1897	11·3
1898	14·1
1899	14·5
1900	15.9

The number of births registered were 123—69 males and 54 females—an increase of 2, making the birth-rate equal 33·5 per 1,000.

The natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths was 55.

There were 12 deaths of infants under one year; the mortality at this age being considerably smaller than in the year 1901. During the latter year 21 deaths were of infants.

The causes of deaths were—

Bronchitis and Pneumonia	5
Premature Birth	1
Convulsions	2
Atrophy	3
Inanition	1

A noteworthy feature is that there were no deaths from Epidemic Diarrhœa.

The following table gives the causes of death at all ages—

Phthisis Pulmonalis	6
Tubercular Peritonitis	1
Cancer	8
Bronchitis	9
Pneumonia	6
Heart Disease	4
Accident	1
Convulsions	4
Cerebral Apoplexy	4
Atrophy	3
Marasmus	1
Enteric Fever	1
Pleurisy	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	2
Other Causes	17

Mortality as to age—

Under 1 year	12
1 and under 5	6
5 ,, 15	1
15 ,, 25	5
25 ,, 65	25
65 and upwards	19

A rather remarkable feature in the mortality is the number of deaths in comparatively young people, viz., 25 deaths out of 68, occurring between the ages of 25 and 65, as against 9 out of 57 the previous year. The death statistics this year include 3 deaths in the Malton Workhouse of people removed there from this district.

During the year 23 infectious cases were reported, viz. :—

Erysipelas	9
Scarlatina	8
Typhoid Fever	5
Diphtheria	1

Scarlatina.

Eight cases as against 9 in 1901. These occurred in 6 houses, 3 being in one house. One case was undoubtedly imported. Another case was contracted in the early part of the year from a case occurring in the latter part of the previous year. The remaining cases were of a mild type, and the origin not traceable.

Typhoid.

Five cases as against 6 in 1901 One case (fatal) was attributable to impure water from a well, but the town water has since been laid on and the well closed. Two cases were contracted from a case which occurred in December of last year and before measures could be taken for the disinfecting of the premises. Another case was most probably contracted away. The fifth case was of an exceedingly mild type.

Diphtheria.

The only apparent cause for the only case was a defective drain, since put into a sanitary condition. All the premises where these infectious cases have occurred have been properly disinfected and every precaution taken to prevent a further outbreak.

has been very prevalent, necessitating the closing of the schools for a short period. I think if greater care was exercised in order to prevent the spread of these two highly-infectious diseases, many of the epidemics would be aborted and lives saved.

Smallpox

have been very prevalent in many places for the greater part of the year, but happily we have not had a single case.

The Water Supply as usual is pure and abundant, and the mains have been still further extended.

The Swimming Bath was completed during the year and was well patronised, especially considering the cold, wet summer. No doubt it would prove a further boon if arrangements could be made to warm the water and thus extend the bathing season many weeks.

I have visited the various cow houses, and most of these conform to the regulations required, especially to air space and drainage. None of the infectious cases that have come under my notice during the year have been traced to the milk supply.

The Factory and Workshop Act of 1901 having come into force, it has devolved on the Medical Officer of Health to inspect the various workshops affected by the Act. It is satisfactory to record that in most cases the requirements of the Act are carried out, and in those not fulfilling the conditions I have suggested alterations, which the employers have promised to make. In small towns the aggravated cases are few, but no doubt the Act will tend to the well-being of the working

classes, preventing the overcrowding of workrooms and enforcing proper ventilation.

Appended is a statement of various Nuisances reported to your Inspector and of the improvements carried out under his supervision. Besides those reported, many other improvements have been carried out. Special attention has been given to the improvement of the Slaughter Houses, which are now in a satisfactory condition—

Ashpits improved	65
Privies improved	90
Water Closets in place of Privies	3
Pans in place of Ashpits	20
Drains improved	8
Complete New Drainage	14
Defective Gullies removed	26
Town Water in place of Well	1
Pigsties removed	7
Sinks trapped	5

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R. H. F. BOSTOCK,

Medical Officer of Health.

Norton, January 26th, 1903.